

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, based on the contention that the limitation in claim 18 that the second bore intersects both the first channel and the second channel constitutes new matter. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The examiner acknowledges that the specification states that the channels 81 and 82 are in the same plane and that the control valves 510A and 510B are in the same plane as the channels 81 and 82. The second control valve 510B does not encumber the flow 88 controlled by the control valve 510A. The examiner is incorrect in inferring that the channel 84 routes the flow around the control valve 510B. The channels 85, 86, 84 and 83 allow fluid to flow from one side of the piston to the other. This indicates that the channels 83 and 84 are parallel to each other and would typically be perpendicular to the channel 81. In one direction of movement of the piston, pressure medium flows through the channel 84 into the channel 81 and leaves the channel 81 through the channel 83. The control valve 510B isolates fluid in the channel 81 to the right (in FIG. 6) of the control valve 510B from fluid to the left of the control valve.

The examiner has rejected claims 13-23 under 35 USC 103 over APA in view of Junttila.

The examiner maintains that the element B shown in the annotated FIG. 2b of Junttila constitutes a collar within the meaning of claim 13. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner's interpretation of FIG. 2b of Junttila for reasons already of record. With respect to the examiner's comment that the control member 2 shown in FIG. 2 of Junttila is solid, not hollow, applicant submits that this supports applicant's position regarding patentability since, as noted by the examiner, a collar may be taken to mean "any of various ring-like devices used to limit, guide, or secure a machine part," and a ring-like device must be like a ring, i.e. a circular band of metal having a central opening, rather than a segment of a solid cylinder.

The new claim 28 requires that the control part, guiding part and support part be made of metal and that the collar be made of plastic, and that the control part, the guiding part and the support part are moveable relative to the collar axially of the bore. Claim 28 is supported by paragraphs 25 and 26 of the international application. In the case of the control device 2 shown in FIG. 2 of Junttila, both the tapering element A and the cylindrical element B are made of plastic and there is no suggestion that the cylindrical element B is movable relative to the tapering element A.

With regard to claims 18-23, the examiner asserts that the only difference between claim 18 and claim 37 is a mere duplication of essential working parts. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 18 does not merely require a second channel, a second bore, and a second control device that interact in the same way as the first channel, first bore, and first control device. Claim 18 further requires that the second bore intersects both the first channel and the second channel, so that a more compact arrangement is provided than could be achieved by mere duplication of parts.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that claims 13 and 18 are patentable, and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

The new dependent claims 28-31 are patentable independently of claims 13 and 18. With respect to claims 28, 29 and 30, neither Junttila nor APA suggests a support part that is movable relative to a collar axially of the bore in which the control device is fitted.

The new claim 31 specifies third and fourth channels, corresponding to the channels 84 and 83 respectively, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 6. Neither the APA nor Junttila discloses or suggests an arrangement similar to that specified in claim 31.

Respectfully submitted,

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